

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are cancelled. New claims 4-6 are added.

New claim 4 corresponds to original claim 3, but recites that the skin wound is selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy (injury of blood or lymph vessel), which is supported by the disclosure on page 20, lines 3-6 of the specification.

New claim 5 is directed to the concentration recited in original claim 2.

New claim 6 is directed to a narrow concentration range within the range in claim 2, and is supported, for example, by Examples 8, 11, and 14 (0.5% acetylsalicylic acid), and Example 13 (20% acetylsalicylic acid) of the specification. See Table 2, page 11; Table 4, page 13; and Tables 5 and 6, page 14, of the specification.

No new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicates on page 2 of the Office Action that JP 3-72426 and JP 64-3123 cited in the IDS filed November 13, 2006 were lined out because English translations were not provided. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner should have initialed both JP 3-72426 and JP 64-3123 since English Abstracts of both of these references were filed with the November 13, 2006 IDS, and in addition, JP 3-72426 is cited on page 2 of the specification. See MPEP 609.04(a) section III.

Accordingly, Applicants are submitting herewith another PTO 1449 form citing just these

two references. The Examiner is kindly requested to initial each of these references on this form, and then return a copy of the initialed form to Applicants' attorney.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Konishi et al. (EP 0784975) as evidenced by Reller (US 4,219,548). Applicants note that US 5,916,918, which is cited in their IDS of August 14, 2006, corresponds to EP 0784975 which is cited in the same IDS.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Inamoto et al. (US 2003/0125308) (which is the English equivalent of WO 2001/047525) as evidenced by Reller.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mizobuchi et al. (US 6,268,355) as evidenced by Reller.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Steen et al. (*Dose-dependent competitive block by topical acetylsalicylic and salicylic acid of low pH-induced cutaneous pain*, Pain, 64 (1996) pp. 71-82).

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections.

1. The Present Invention

The present invention relates to a method for treating skin wounds and for alleviating pain associated with skin wounds which consists of administering to an affected part of a patient an effective dose of acetylsalicylic acid or its pharmacologically acceptable salt. The skin wound is selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and

lymphangiopathy (injury of blood or lymph vessel).

2. Konishi et al. evidenced by Reller

Konishi et al. disclose a drug for the treatment of skin injuries, particularly hardly curable diseases such as bedsores, which comprises acetylsalicylic acid in the form of a topical preparation. See e.g., the Abstract.

On the other hand, the present invention relates to a method of treating a skin wound selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy associated with pain.

Accordingly, the subject matter of new claims 4-6 is not disclosed by Konishi et al. Therefore, claims 4-6 are not anticipated by Konishi et al., and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Reller discloses that acetylsalicylic acid is useful for the treatment of the inflammation of skin including dermatoses accompanied by inflammation, skin injury, contact burns and insect bites, through topical administration. However, Reller does not disclose that acetylsalicylic acid can be used for treating skin wounds selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy associated with pain, by its topical application, as presently claimed.

Accordingly, Reller does not provide evidence of routine knowledge in the art of using acetylsalicylic acid for the treatment of the presently claimed skin wounds.

3. *Inamoto et al.*

Inamoto et al. relates to an external preparation having antipruritic activity which contains acetylsalicylic acid as an active ingredient.

However, Inamoto et al. do not disclose that acetylsalicylic acid is useful for treating a skin wound selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy associated with pain, as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the present invention recited in new claims 4 to 6 is not disclosed by Inamoto et al. Therefore, claims 4 to 6 are not anticipated by Inamoto et al. and this rejection should be withdrawn.

4. *Mizobuchi et al.*

Mizobuchi et al. disclose external preparations which contain aspirin, which are stored for long times, and are asserted to be superior in dermal absorbability. See the Abstract.

However, Mizobuchi et al. do not disclose that preparations containing aspirin are useful for treating skin wounds selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy associated with pain as presently claimed.

Accordingly, the present invention recited in claims 4-6 is not disclosed by Mizobuchi et al., and the rejection of claims 4-6 based on this reference should be withdrawn.

5. *Steen et al.*

Steen et al. relates to a study on dose-dependent competitive block by topical

acetylsalicylic acid and salicylic acid of low pH-induced cutaneous pain.

Steen et al. do not disclose that acetylsalicylic acid is useful for treating a skin wound selected from the group consisting of traumata, infectious disease in surgery, postoperative wound, temperature impairment, chemical impairment, radiation injury, and vessel and lymphangiopathy associated with pain, as presently claimed. Accordingly, the present invention recited in claims 4-6 is not disclosed by Steen et al., and claims 4 to 6 are not anticipated by this reference.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Yukiko INAMOTO et al.

By: J. Mark Konieczny
J. Mark Konieczny
Registration No. 47,715
Attorney for Applicants

JMK/MRD/rgf/akl
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021
Telephone (202) 721-8200
Facsimile (202) 721-8250
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